

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 NSC-05 DODE-00
NSCE-00 ERDA-07 AF-10 ARA-14 CIAE-00 EA-09 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00
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INRE-00 ERDE-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /141 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9158

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 9208

STATE PASS ACDA, WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC, DOD FOR JCS, USNATO
PASS WARNKE DEL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, SOPN, UR, US

SUBJECT: WARNKE REMARKS UPON DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW JUNE 27, 1977

IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW ON MONDAY, JUNE 27,
ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE ANSWERED SEVERAL QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY NEWS-
MEN (UPI, REUTERS, LOS ANGELES TIMES, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR) IN
VIP LOUNGE OF SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT. SESSION BEGAN APPROXIMATELY
11:20 HOURS LOCAL TIME. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTION-AND-
ANSWER SESSION:

(BEGIN TRANSCRIPT)

Q -- DID QUESTIONS INVOLVING SALT ARISE DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS?
(PARAPHRASE)

A -- NO, AS I SAID, THESE DELEGATIONS ARE DIRECTED ENTIRELY TO THE
INDIAN OCEAN.

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Q -- WHERE WILL THE TALKS GO FROM HERE?

A -- WE INTEND TO RESUME AT SOME TIME TO BE SET BETWEEN US WITHIN
A PERIOD OF, YOU KNOW, A COUPLE OF MONTHS OR SO.

Q -- HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE CONTENTS OF THE TALKS?

A -- I THINK THAT BOTH DELEGATIONS WERE QUITE ENCOURAGED. I THINK THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A COMMON INTEREST HERE, THAT THERE IS NO REASON IN THE WORLD WHY EITHER SIDE WOULD WANT TO ENGAGE IN ANY SORT OF INTENSIVE MILITARY COMPETITION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. THAT IS, AS A CONSEQUENCE, WHEN YOU'VE GOT A MUTUAL INTEREST YOU HAVE GOOD EXPECTATIONS OF REACHING SOME SORT OF CONSTRUCTIVE RESULT.

Q -- DO YOU THINK THE RESULT WILL BE AN AGREEMENT OF SOME KIND?

A -- IT WOULD BE HARD TO FORECAST THE FORM OF ANY ARRANGEMENT AT THIS POINT. IT COULD BE A FORMAL AGREEMENT. IT COULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS. I JUST DON'T KNOW -- WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN THAT FAR YET. AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS THE FIRST TALKS THAT WE'VE HAD BILATERALLY ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND IT'S A COMPLICATED QUESTION.

Q -- CAN A SUBJECT SUCH AS THIS REMAIN BILATERAL OR ...?

A -- I THINK IT HAS TO REMAIN BILATERAL, AND, REALLY, THE ISSUE THAT WE'RE CONFRONTING AT THIS POINT IS WHETHER WE CAN FIND SOME WAY OF LESSENING THE CHANCE OF A MILITARY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. NOW, WE BOTH HAVE INTERESTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN -- OBVIOUSLY. OTHER COUNTRIES DO TOO. AND THEY HAVE TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS AS THEY SEE FIT. BUT I SEE THIS AS BEING ONE OF THE ITEMS IN A SOVIET-UNITED
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STATES BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND ONE THAT CAN BE ADDRESSED BILATERALLY, SURE.

Q -- DID YOU HAVE ANY TALKS WITH DR. KORNIYENKO?

A -- MINISTER KORNIYENKO WAS KIND ENOUGH TO COME AND SEE ME AT THE AIRPORT AND I TALKED WITH HIM, YES.

Q -- BUT NOT FORMAL TALKS OR ...

A -- WE'VE HAD NO FORMAL TALKS.

Q -- MR. WARNKE, YOU MUST BE ASKED THIS EVERY TIME YOU'RE ANYWHERE, BUT IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN SAY ON THE OVERALL STATUS OF THE SALT TALKS AT THE MOMENT?

A -- NOT REALLY. I JUST DON'T THINK IT'S USEFUL FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS TO GET INTO ANY KIND OF DISCUSSION OF THE STATE OF PLAY AT THE PRESENT POINT.

Q -- THE REASON I ASKED IS PRAVDA HAD A WORD ABOUT IT YESTERDAY.

A -- OH REALLY. WHAT DID THEY HAVE TO SAY?

Q -- THEY SAID "NO PROGRESS." THIS WAS THEIR "INTERNATIONAL WEEK IN REVIEW." THE COMMENT WAS: "NO PROGRESS TO DATE.."

A -- NO PROGRESS OVER WHAT PERIOD OF TIME?

Q -- IT WAS UNSPECIFIED, BUT I GOT THE OPINION, I GOT THE IMPRESSION THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT . . . THERE'S A GOOD BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT -- VLADIVOSTOK. I DON'T ... I CAN THINK OF THE RUSSIAN WORD BUT NOT THE ENGLISH ONE . . . BUT IT ADDED UP TO NO PROGRESS.

A -- WELL, AS HAS BEEN SAID BY SECRETARY VANCE AND BY ME, WE UNCLASSIFIED

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FEEL THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS MADE AT THE GENEVA TALKS A MONTH AGO. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE DON'T REMAIN QUITE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THAT HAS TO BE EXPECTED WHEN YOU GET INTO SOMETHING AS COMPLICATED AS THE NEXT ROUND OF STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS. THE EASY PROBLEMS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOLVED. BUT AGAIN IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE IMPORTANT FACTOR IS THAT BOTH SIDES ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR APPROACH AND THAT BOTH SIDES AGAIN HAVE HAD A COMMON INTEREST. I CAN THINK OF ALL KINDS OF REASONS WHY BOTH OF US WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS.

Q -- DO YOU SHARE THE VIEW THAT THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT BEFORE THE OLD ONE EXPIRES?

A -- I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN BY "DO I SHARE THE VIEW."

Q -- THERE WAS A REPORT IN THE BALTIMORE SUN ON FRIDAY, I THINK, OR SATURDAY, SAYING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS -- NOW THIS IS INFORMAL AS I UNDERSTAND IT -- THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS -- I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT WORD -- ACCEPTING, PERHAPS, THE FACT THAT THERE WILL NOT OR MAY NOT BE AN AGREEMENT BEFORE OCTOBER 3.

A -- WELL, WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THAT I AM OF THE VIEW THAT OCTOBER 3 SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS SOME KIND OF AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE. IT SEEMS TO ME THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE IN CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AND IF BOTH SIDES ARE NEGOTIATING CONSTRUCTIVELY AND HOPEFULLY, THEN THEY'RE GOING TO FIND SOME WAY OF BRIDGING ANY SORT OF TIME PERIOD THAT MIGHT ELAPSE BEFORE YOU GET A SALT TWO AGREEMENT. BUT IT'S ONLY JUNE. THAT LEAVES US JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. AND I CERTAINLY DON'T DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF COMPLETING AN AGREEMENT BY THAT TIME. SURE, IF YOU'RE DEALING WITH QUESTIONS LIKE THE RATIFICATION PROCESS AND OTHER THINGS THAT ARE BEYOND MY CONTROL, THEN THAT MAY TAKE A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME. BUT AS I SAY, SUPPOSING THAT YOU DO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL MEETING UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE MINDS, THEN ISN'T IT QUITE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT SOME SORT OF
BRIDGING ARRANGEMENT?

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9159
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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STATE PASS ACDA, WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC, DOD FOR JCS, USNATO
PASS WARNKE DEL

Q -- WE'VE BEEN TOLD THE NEXT VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING IS IN
THE FIRST PART OF SEPTEMBER. WOULD THERE BE CONTACTS BEFORE THEN?

A -- WELL, THERE ARE CONTINUING CONTACTS AS YOU KNOW. I THINK
THAT THAT'S BEEN MADE PUBLIC. WE ARE IN CONTACT THROUGH OUR
AMBASSADORS.

Q -- BUT THE VANCE-GROMYKO IN OCTOBER WOULD BE -- EARLY IN
SEPTEMBER, THE FIRST PART OF SEPTEMBER - WOULD BE THE NEXT FULL-
SCALE MEETING?

A -- WELL, I THINK AS FAR AS A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING BETWEEN
THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER ARE CONCERNED,
THAT IT HAS BEEN INDICATED THAT THAT'S THE EARLIEST DATE AT
WHICH THEY ARE ABLE TO FIND ROOM ON BOTH OF THEIR CALENDARS.

Q -- WAS THE TONE OF THE TALKS THIS TIME ON THE INDIAN OCEAN-- ALL OF US WHO LIVE HERE TEND TO ASK THIS QUESTION-- UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE THEY, WAS THERE AN ATMOSPHERE OF "LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?" WAS IT CORDIAL IN THAT SENSE?

A -- OH, I WOULD SAY IT WAS BOTH BUSINESSLIKE AND CORDIAL. YES. I FIND AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH A DELIGHTFUL MAN TO NEGOTIATE WITH. HE DIDN'T AGREE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT WITH ME, BUT YOU CAN'T EXPECT THAT. HE'S AN EXPERIENCED AND GIFTED DIPLOMAT, AND OUR TALKS WERE ENTIRELY FRIENDLY AT ALL TIMES.

Q -- AND IS THERE ANY AGREEMENT AS TO WHEN THE TALKS WILL CONTINUE?

A -- NO, NOT YET. NO, WE HAVEN'T FIXED A DATE AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE'VE AGREED THAT IT OUGHT TO BE WITHIN THE REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE.

Q -- YOU SAID THAT OCTOBER 3 IS NOT AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE...

A -- WELL, WHAT I MEAN IS THAT I DON'T THINK EITHER SIDE IS GOING TO FEEL SOMEHOW THAT IF WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN AN AGREEMENT BY OCTOBER 3, WE'VE FAILED. AND NEITHER ONE OF US IS GOING TO MAKE COMPROMISES IN ORDER TO GET SOMETHING DONE BY OCTOBER 3. BUT WE ARE ENGAGED IN A CONTINUING PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

Q -- BUT ISN'T IT A DEADLINE IN THE SENSE THAT ...?

A -- IT'S A DEADLINE IN TERMS OF THE FACT THAT THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON THE CONTROL OF OFFENSIVE ARMS WILL IN FACT TERMINATE ON OCTOBER 3.

Q -- IS THERE ANY KIND OF AGREEMENT TO EXTEND IT?

A -- WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED ABOUT THAT BECAUSE WE'RE UNCLASSIFIED

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FOCUSING ON TRYING TO GET A SALT TWO AGREEMENT, RATHER THAN ON HOW YOU GO ABOUT BRIDGING ANY TIME PERIOD THAT MAY ELAPSE BEFORE ONE TAKES PLACE. BUT WE'LL FACE THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES.

Q -- DOES THE PROSPECT OF HAVING THE INTERIM AGREEMENT LAPSE, DOES THAT WORRY YOU?

A -- IT DOESN'T, NO. WHAT WOULD WORRY ME WOULD BE IF THE TALKS HAD BROKEN DOWN. IF THE TALKS HAD BROKEN DOWN, THEN THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD LAPSE AND THE QUESTION THEN WOULD BE WHAT EITHER PARTY WOULD DO. BUT IF BOTH PARTIES ARE STILL PROCEEDING WITH NEOGITATIONS AND DOING SO HOPEFULLY, THEN I THINK THAT YOU COULD FIND SOME WAY OF SEEING TO IT THAT NEITHER TAKES ACTION THAT WOULD LESSEN THE CHANCES OF GETTING AN EFFECTIVE SALT TWO AGREEMENT.

Q -- AND THE TALKS ARE CONTINUING?

A -- YES THEY ARE.

Q -- DO YOU DETECT ANY SPILLOVER INTO YOUR TALKS OF SOME OF THE TENSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA HERE WITHIN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS?

A -- NO, I HAVE NOT DETECTED ANY SORT OF A FALLOVER AT ALL. BUT AS I SAY, THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS HAS BEEN ENTIRELY POSITIVE AND CORDIAL, AND WE'VE RESTRICTED OURSELVES TO DISCUSSING THESE PARTICULAR ISSUES.
(END TRANSCRIPT). MATLOCK

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